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DOCUMENT_ID: 37867841
INQNO: DOC20D 00143291
DOCNO: TEL 025902 91
PRODUCER: PARIS
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19910926
TOR: 055333
DOCPREC: O
ORIGDATE: 199109260950
MHFNO: 91 5686194
DOCCLASS: U

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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DE RUFHFR #5902/01 2690951
ZNR UUUU ZZH
O 260950Z SEP 91
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TO RUEHFO/USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
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ITA/EUR/FR; USCINCEUR FOR PAO; NATO FOR USIS; GENEVA
FOR USIS; USDEL NST GENEVA; MOSCOW FOR P&C; ROME FOR
USIS/AIO; BRUSSELS FOR USIS.

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT
TAGS: NONE
COMBINE: COMPLETE

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SUBJECT: DAILY MEDIA REACTION REPORT

PARIS - THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 1991

(A) STORIES COVERED IN REPORT:

1. IRAQ
2. ZAIRE
3. YUGOSLAVIA

(B) SUMMARY OF TYPE OF COVERAGE:

THE DEATH OF NAZI WAR CRIMINAL **KLAUS BARBIE**, 77, YESTERDAY NIGHT IS THE NUMBER ONE HEADLINE IN THE AUDIOVISUAL PRESS THIS MORNING. ALL RECALL THE LIFE OF "THE BUTCHER OF LYON"--HE WAS THE CHIEF OF THE GESTAPO IN LYON, AND SPECIALIZED IN ARRESTING JEWS, MEMBERS OF THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT AND COMMUNISTS.

YESTERDAY'S VIOLENT EVENTS IN ROMANIA, WHERE MINERS STORMED GOVERNMENT'S HEADQUARTERS, ARE ALSO A VERY IMPORTANT STORY IN THE PRESS. MOST NEWSPAPERS PUBLISH PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE RIOTS--CONSERVATIVE FIGARO ON THE FRONT PAGE--AND HEADLINE THIS NEWS ON THEIR FRONT PAGES. HERVE GUENERON SAYS IN REGIONAL LA NOUVELLE REPUBLIQUE DU CENTER OUEST: "SERBS AND CROATIANS HAVE BARELY FINISHED KILLING EACH OTHER FOR ANCESTRAL HATRED A FEW KILOMETERS AWAY. ROMANIA HAS PLUNGED BACK INTO ANARCHY AND VIOLENCE". GUENERON CALLS THESE RIOTS "A REVOLT OF EMPTY-STOMACHS".

ZAIRE IS ON THE FRONT BURNER AS WELL, WITH THE SETTING OF A CURFEW AND THE RESULTING CALM--SOME SAY PRECARIOUS--SITUATION. ALSO, THE FIRST WESTERNERS ARRIVED YESTERDAY IN FRANCE. IMAGES OF THE ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT WERE BROADCAST BY ALL TV NETWORKS. SOME OF THEM WERE INTERVIEWED AND REPORTED ON THE SCENES OF PILLAGING AND VIOLENCE THEY HAD SEEN BEFORE LEAVING ZAIRE.

IRAQ AND THE U.S. THREAT (SIX BATTERIES OF PATRIOT MISSILES SENT TO SAUDI ARABIA) RECEIVES EXTENSIVE COVERAGE. RIGHT-OFF-CENTER LE QUOTIDIEN SAYS ON ITS FRONT PAGE: "SADDAM PERSISTS". CONSERVATIVE FIGARO HEADLINES: "SADDAM HUSSEIN HAS TAKEN THE UN HOSTAGE" AND, NOTING THAT "TENSION ABOUT THE IRAQI NUCLEAR POTENTIAL IS AGGRAVATING", WONDERS "HOW MUCH FARTHER CAN SADDAM GO?". FIGARO'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT STEPHANE MARCHAND REPORTS ON "WASHINGTON'S EXASPERATION". FIGARO EXPLAINS: "THE TRANSFER OF PATRIOTS TO SAUDI ARABIA SHOWS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS READY TO PUNISH BAGHDAD".

ALL AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA REPORTED ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL'S UNANIMOUS DECISION TO ORDER AN ARMS EMBARGO ON YUGOSLAVIA.

THE PLO MEETING IN ALGIERS CONTINUES TO BE FOLLOWED.

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RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE QUOTIDIEN SAYS THAT "SADDAM HUSSEIN HAS MANAGED TO HUSH UP ALL DIVERGENCES ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE. HIS ADVERSARIES HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT TO RESIST HIM MEANT TO TAKE THE RISK OF MAKING THE PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION EXPLODE".

MENTION IS MADE OF PEACE IN SALVADOR. INFLUENTIAL LE MONDE PRAISES THE "PEACE IN VIEW IN SALVADOR" ON ITS FRONT PAGE AND NOTES THAT "IN REALITY, BOTH PARTIES HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SOONER OR LATER AGREE WITH EACH OTHER. THE LAST THREE YEARS' CONFRONTATIONS HAVE PROVEN THAT NEITHER THE REBELS NOR THE ENEMY HAD THE MEANS TO WIN A WAR THAT THE POPULATION NO LONGER WANTED TO ENDURE. THE IMPASSE ON THE GROUND IS ALL THE MORE OBVIOUS SINCE PRESIDENT BUSH CUT HALF OF THE MILITARY AID--WHICH THE U.S. CONGRESS WILL NOW MAKE DEPENDENT UPON THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS."

(C) HEADLINES:

IRAQ:

"SADDAM HAS TAKEN THE UN HOSTAGE" (LE FIGARO-FRONT PAGE)
"SADDAM'S NEW HOSTAGES" (LE QUOTIDIEN-PAGE 6)
"SADDAM PERSISTS" (LE QUOTIDIEN-FRONT PAGE)

ROMANIA:

"MINERS ARE BACK IN BUCHAREST" (LIBERATION-FRONT PAGE)
"THE TERROR OF MINERS" (LE QUOTIDIEN-FRONT PAGE)
"THE REVOLT OF ROMANIAN MINERS" (LE FIGARO-FRONT PAGE)

(D) SUPPORTING TEXT:

1. IRAQ:

CONSERVATIVE FIGARO FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR JACQUES JACQUET-FRANCILLON: "...WHY REFUSE TO FACE FACTS? FOR TWO DAYS, FORTY-FOUR UN INSPECTORS--CIVIL SERVANTS WITH THE UN FLAG ON THEIR ARMS--HAVE BEEN SEQUESTERED--THERE IS NO OTHER WORD--BY IRAQI SOLDIERS.... THIS IS WHAT THE LOSER OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR BLITZKRIEG IN HISTORY IS ALLOWING HIMSELF TO DO.... IS IT ALL? NO. THE CLASSIC SCENARIO OF STATE TERRORISM, SADLY ILLUSTRATED WHEN THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEHRAN WERE TAKEN HOSTAGES, IS BACK ON THE SCENE. MR. TAREK AZIZ...HANDLES MR. PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S ENVOYS AS ORDINARY SPIES.... AND MR. BUSH CONFINES HIMSELF TO TALKING WITH MR. MITTERRAND ON THE PHONE AND CLAIMING THAT 'SADDAM IS PLAYING WITH FIRE' AND THAT HE 'DOES NOT ASSESS THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS ACTS'. VERY GOOD. HOW LONG WILL GEORGE BUSH CONTENT HIMSELF BY PLAYING WITH WORDS?"

REGIONAL LA CHARENTE LIBRE WITH ANDRE MAZIERES: "IT SEEMS THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN'S PANACHE AND ARROGANCE ARE BACK, AS IF HE THOUGHT THAT THE AMERICANS AND THEIR ALLIES WOULD NOT DARE TO LAUNCH A NEW MILITARY

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OPERATION AGAINST HIM. BUT ONCE AGAIN, HE HAS MISCALCULATED. FOR PRESIDENT BUSH SEEMS TO BE DETERMINED TO USE FORCE AGAIN IF NEED BE".

2. ZAIRE:

JACQUES ISNARD REPORTS ON THE FRENCH MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE IN INFLUENTIAL LE MONDE--PUBLISHED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON: "...IN FRENCH MILITARY CIRCLES, IT IS SAID THAT, FOR THE TIME BEING, IT HAS NOT BEEN NECESSARY TO CALL FOR U.S. LOGISTICS--CONTRARY TO OPERATION 'BONITE' IN MAY 1978 DURING WHICH THE AMERICANS ENGAGED THEIR HEAVY TRANSPORTATION AIRCRAFTS. THE SAME SOURCE EXPLAINS THAT THE AMERICANS SUSPENDED ABOUT A WEEK AGO THEIR FINANCIAL AID--IN DOLLARS--FOR NON-MILITARY PURPOSES AND THAT THIS INITIATIVE HAS PROBABLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE UPRISING OF SOME OF THE ZAIRIAN SOLDIERS AGAINST PRESIDENT MOBUTU."

PIERRE HASKI WRITES, ON PAGE 20 OF INFLUENTIAL LIBERATION, ON THE RISKS OF THE FRENCH MILITARY INTERVENTION: "...IN THREATENING TO WITHDRAW FRENCH TROOPS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PARIS IS SHOWING MOBUTU THAT HE MUST QUICKLY MAKE A DECISION REGARDING THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF HIS COUNTRY, BEFORE HE IS LEFT IN TETE-A-TETE WITH HIS ARMY AND HIS PEOPLE.... THE FRENCH ATTITUDE IS RISKY. IF MOBUTU DOES NOT MOVE, WOULD PARIS RUN THE RISK OF WITHDRAWING ITS TROOPS AND LEAVE ZAIRE WITH THE THREAT OF A TOTAL SOCIAL EXPLOSION? IF THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN MOBUTU AND HIS OPPOSITION CONTINUES, WON'T FRANCE BE--UNWILLINGLY--DRIVEN INTO THE POSITION OF ARBITRATOR? IT IS A VERY DIFFICULT EXERCISE THAT FRENCH OFFICIALS ARE MAKING--SEARCHING TO 'PROTECT FOREIGN CITIZENS' WITHOUT APPEARING TO BE 'MOBUTU'S SAVIOR', PREVENTING A FALL INTO CHAOS AND SAVING THE CHANCES FOR DEMOCRATIZATION".

ECONOMIC LES ECHOS UNATTRIBUTED BACK PAGE EDITORIAL: "...LACKING A CREDIBLE SUCCESSOR FOR PRESIDENT MOBUTU OR FEARING UNFORESEEABLE ACTIONS OF A DIVIDED OPPOSITION, NEITHER THE UNITED STATES NOR FRANCE ARE INTENDING TO PUT AWAY A MAN (MOBUTU) WHOSE ONLY MERIT IS TO HAVE TRIED TO PRESERVE--BUT AT WHAT COST--THE UNITY OF HIS COUNTRY. THUS, THE ARRIVAL OF FRENCH AND BELGIAN TROOPS IN ZAIRE MAY GIVE THE ANNOYING IMPRESSION THAT WESTERNERS ARE ONCE AGAIN LENDING RELIEF TO AN ENDANGERED POTENTATE. BUT PARIS, WASHINGTON AND BRUSSELS WILL ONE DAY HAVE TO RESIGN THEMSELVES TO THE ZAIRIANS TAKING THEIR DESTINY INTO THEIR OWN HANDS".

3. YUGOSLAVIA: THE "DEFEAT" OF THE EC:

WEEKLY LIBERAL L'EXPRESS WITH YANN DE L'ECOTAIIS:

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"...OFFICIALLY DECIDED TO TRANSFORM THEIR ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION INTO A POLITICAL UNION EQUIPPED WITH A DEFENSE SYSTEM, WESTERN EUROPEANS HAVE FAILED ON THE FIRST OBSTACLE. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS LAPSE--IF THE LAPSE IS CONFIRMED, WHICH SEEMS VERY LIKELY TO HAPPEN--MAY BECOME CONSIDERABLE:

1. SERBIANS AND CROATIANS ARE GIVING EVIDENCE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO TEAR EACH OTHER'S GUTS OUT IN THE HEART OF EUROPE WITHOUT ANYONE BEING ABLE TO HALT THE MASSACRE--WITHOUT DEMOCRACIES BEING ABLE TO IMPOSE PEACE. THIS MAY BE A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR ALL THOSE WHO, ALONG STILL QUESTIONABLE BORDERS, ARE PLAYING WITH FIRE.
2. THE YUGOSLAV CIVIL WAR IS A DEFEAT FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE COOPERATION OF NATIONS IN ORGANIZED AND PEACEFUL, EC-TYPE BODIES....
3. THE TWELVE'S PARALYSIS, WITHIN THEIR NATURAL ZONE OF INFLUENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY AND THE RESULTING DANGER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CALL FOR AN OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. TODAY, THAT OF THE UN FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IS WELL KNOWN. BUT HOW ABOUT TOMORROW?...
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY JUST DEMONSTRATED THAT ITS ECONOMIC WEIGHT DOES NOT GRANT IT A DECISIVE AUTHORITY AND THAT ITS MEMBERS WILL NOT HAVE MUCH INFLUENCE AS LONG AS THEY HAVE NOT CROSSED THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY DOORSTEP". KORENGOLD

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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